Smuggling of narcotics at Indo-Bangla border

†1596. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of smuggling going on at Indo-Bangla border and narcotics substances like opium and charas being sent to India from Bangaldesh as telecast recently by a news channel;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken and since when undertaken, to check this menace; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) to (c) The Indo-Bangladesh border is porous in nature and prone to smuggling. However, the Government have seized narcotics substances like Ganja and Heroine along Indo-Bangladesh border while in the process of being smuggling out to Bangladesh. The following steps are being taken to check such activities:—

(i) Round the clock surveillance of the border by patrolling.

(ii) Construction of fencing and flood lighting.

(iii) Conduct of special operations.

(iv) Upgradation of intelligence network.

(v) Use of night vision devices.

(vi) Augmentation of strength of patrolling/naka duties.

(vii) Co-ordination with Army/Police/locals.

Telgi's links with police officials

1597. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Home Affairs has made an inquiry on the links of Abdul Karim Telgi with police officers in various States of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) how many police officers have been found to be involved in the scandal; and

(c) what action has been taken against these police officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs is aware of the alleged links of Abdul Karim Telgi with police officers. As per the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, investigation of stamp paper scam cases carried out by the Special Investigation Team has indicated involvement of eight serving and retired police officers (including one officer of IGP rank and one retired officer of ADGP rank) who have been arrested.

Pension to freedom fighters of Telengana areas in A.P.

1598. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over thirteen thousand freedom fighters of Telengana areas in Andhra Pradesh recognized by Government of India as participants in the movement against the Nizam of Hyderabad, have still not been given the Swtantrata Sainik Samman Pension; and

(b) by when Government propose to sanction pension to these old people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The Government of India had constituted a Special Screening Committee to scrutinize the claims for Samman Pension on the grounds of participation of border camps during Hyderabad Liberation Movement. The last committee had recommended cases of about 13,500 applicants belonging to the State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Since complaints were received about the cases recommended by the Committee, all these cases were referred to the concerned State Governments for verification of claims.

(b) On receipt of verification reports from the concerned State Governments, the cases of these applicants are examined as per provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 and appropriate decision taken and communicated to them.